GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:689
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNALS
SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with Debt Recovery Tribunals with amount involved therein as on date;

(b) whether the debtors are taking advantage of existing loopholes in the system of Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug these loopholes;

(e) the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases of Debt Recovery Tribunals; and

(f) the details of achievement made in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) As per the information furnished by Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), there are 33,622 cases pending with various DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 1,05,517 crores as on 31.12.2002.

(b) to (d) The DRT Act was amended in 2000 to strengthen the functioning of Tribunals. Consequent upon these amendments, the DRT rules have also been amended and notified on 21.1.2003. The Supreme Court had declared the DRT Act as valid vide its order dated 14.3.2002. Thus hurdles in the smooth functioning of DRTs have been removed.

(e) The following steps further have been taken for speedy disposal of cases by DRTs:â€”

(i) constitution of 15 more DRTs since 1st April, 2000 thereby taking the total number of DRTs in the country to 29;

(ii) increasing the staff strength of DRTs;

(iii) further delegation of administrative and financial powers to Presiding Officers to improve their functioning;

(iv) arranging adequate infrastructure for DRTs;

(v) close coordination between DRTs and Banks/FIs; and;

(vi) office computerization in DRTs.

(f) As a result of the various measures taken, disposal of cases has increased from 4637 in 2000-01 to 8931 in 2001-02 and to 7603 during 2002-03 (upto 31.12.2002). Similarly recoveries made through DRTs has also gone up from Rs. 1185 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 2153 crores during 2001-02 and Rs. 2014 crores during 2002-03 (upto 31.12.2002).